

## 9 GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

**ABAG:** Association of Bay Area Governments.

**ACHP:** Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**A-Weighted Sound Level, dBA:** The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective reactions to noise. All sound levels in this report are A-weighted, unless reported otherwise.

**Ambient Noise Level:** The composite of noise from all sources near and far. The normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.

**Baseline Emissions:** The emissions that would occur without policy intervention (in a business-as-usual scenario). Baseline estimates are needed to determine the effectiveness of emissions reduction programs (often called mitigation strategies).

**BCDC:** Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

**Best Management Practices:** Techniques in various land use activities to mitigate or prevent harm to or inhibition of natural attributes or processes.

**BOHMP:** Burrowing Owl Habitat Management Plan.

**Buffer:** A strip of land, fence, or border of trees, etc. between one use and another, which may or may not have trees and shrubs planted for screening purposes, designed to set apart one use area from another.

**Build out:** Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning regulations.

**CAC:** Citizens Advisory Committee.

**CANG:** California Air National Guard.

**Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** Colorless, odorless, non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of the ambient air. Carbon dioxide is a product of fossil fuel combustion. Although carbon dioxide does not directly impair human health, it is a greenhouse gas that traps terrestrial (i.e., infrared) radiation and contributes to the potential for global warming.

**Census Tract:** A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county in a metropolitan area or a selected non-metropolitan county, delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting decennial census data.

**CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act:** State law requiring various agencies to document and consider the environmental implications of their actions.

**Class I Bikeway (Path):** A two-way facility separated from a street or highway for bicycle travel, typically along rail, water or utility corridors.

**Class II Bikeway (Lane):** A portion of a roadway striped for use by bicycles.

**Class II Bikeway (Route):** A travelway for bicycles through a community, providing a superior route based on traffic volumes and speeds, street width, directness and cross-street priority, denoted by signs only.

**Community Noise Equivalent Level, CNEL:** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 5 decibels in the evening from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

**Comprehensive Plan:** A plan for development of an area which recognizes the physical, economic, social, political, aesthetic, and related factors of the community involved.

**Contributing Building:** A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic association, historic architectural quality, or cultural values because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

**CRAF:** Civil Reserve Air Fleet.

**Cultural Resources:** Those resources that possess qualities of significance in American, state or local history, architecture, archaeology, and culture present in districts, sites, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, congruency, and association.

**CUP EA:** Comprehensive Use Plan Environmental Assessment.

**Day/Night Noise Level,  $L_{dn}$ :** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

**Decibel, dB:** A unit describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).

**Drainage:** (1) Surface water runoff; and (2) The removal of surface water or groundwater from land by drains, grading, or other means that include runoff controls to minimize erosion and sedimentation during and after construction or development, the means for preserving the water supply, and the prevention or alleviation of flooding.

**Easement:** A grant by a property owner for the use of land by the public, a corporation, or persons for specific purposes such as the construction of utilities, drainage ways and roadways.

**EIMP:** Environmental Issues Management Plan.

**EIR: Environmental Impact Report.** Required under state law (CEQA).

**EIS: Environmental Impact Statement.** Required under federal law (NEPA).

**Endangered Species:** A species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.

**Equivalent Noise Level,  $L_{eq}$ :** The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

**Floodplain:** The land area susceptible to inundation by water as a result of a flood.

**Footprint:** The horizontal area as seen in plan, measured from outside of all exterior walls and supporting columns.

**Frequency, Hz:** The number of complete pressure fluctuations per second above and below atmospheric pressure.

**General Plan:** A city's basic planning document, which provides the blueprint for development throughout the community and is the vehicle through which competing interests and needs of the citizenry are balanced and meshed.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** A method of storing geographic information on computers. Geographic information can be obtained from a variety of sources, including topographic maps, soil maps, aerial and satellite photos, and remote sensing technology.

**Grade:** The average level of the finished surface of the ground adjacent to the exterior walls of the building.

**Grade, Existing:** The vertical elevation of the ground surface prior to excavating or filling.

**Habitat:** The particular living place which provides an environment suitable for survival of an organism, a species or a community.

**Hazardous Waste:** Any refuse or discarded material or combinations of refuse or discarded materials in solid, semisolid, liquid, or gaseous form which cannot be handled by routine waste management techniques because they pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or other living organisms because of their chemical, biological, or physical properties.

**Historic Preservation:** The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods in order to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

**Historic Structure:** Any structure that is (a) listed in the National Register of Historic Places or is eligible for individual listing on the National Register; (b) certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; or (c) designated by the city as a heritage preservation site.

**HRPP:** Historic Resources Protection Plan.

**Infill:** Development or redevelopment of land that has been bypassed, remained vacant, and/or is underused as a result of the continuing urban development process.

**Jobs/Housing Balance:** The availability of affordable housing for employees.

**Jobs/Housing Ratio:** The jobs/housing balance divides the number of jobs in an area by the number of employed residents. A ratio of 1.0 indicates a balance. A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates a net in-commute; less than 1.0 indicates a net out-commute.

**$L_{dn}$  (Day/Night Noise Level):** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

**$L_{max}$ ,  $L_{min}$ :** The maximum and minimum A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

**$L_{01}$ ,  $L_{10}$ ,  $L_{50}$ ,  $L_{90}$ :** The A-weighted noise levels that are exceeded 1%, 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time during the measurement period.

**LAFCO:** Local Agency Formation Commission. A state agency that works in an individual county with the authority to set the boundaries and Spheres of Influence of local agencies such as cities and special districts.

**Level of Service (LOS) standard, traffic:** A scale that measures the amount of traffic that a roadway or intersection can accommodate, based on such factors as maneuverability, driver dissatisfaction, and delay.

**LOS A:** Indicates a relatively free flow of traffic, with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed.

**LOS B:** A steady flow of traffic, with only slight delays in vehicle movement and speed

**LOS C:** A reasonably steady, high-volume flow of traffic, with some limitations on vehicle movement and speed, and occasional backups on critical approaches.

**LOS D:** Designates where the level of traffic nears an unstable flow. Intersections still function but short queues develop and cars may have to wait through one cycle during short peaks.

**LOS E:** Traffic characterized by slow movement and frequent (although momentary) stoppages. This type of congestion is considered severe, but is not

uncommon at peak hours, with frequent stopping, longstanding queues, and blocked intersections.

**LOS F:** Represents unsatisfactory stop-and-go traffic characterized by “traffic jams” and stoppages of long duration. Vehicles at signalized intersections usually have to wait through one or more signal changes, and “upstream” intersections may be blocked by the long queues.

**MIP:** Mitigation Implementation Plan. Describes who will implement each mitigation measure, how it will be implemented, and when it will be implemented. Prepared before the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed.

**Mitigation:** Measures taken to eliminate or minimize damages from development activities by replacement of the resource or other means of compensation.

**NADP:** NASA Ames Development Plan.

**National Register of Historic Places:** The listing maintained by the US National Park Service of areas that have been designated as historically significant.

**Neotraditional Development:** An approach to land use planning and urban design that promotes the building of neighborhoods with a mix of uses and housing types, architectural variety, a central public gathering place, interconnecting streets and alleys, and edges defined by greenbelts or boulevards. The basic goal is integration of the activities of potential residents with work, shopping, recreation, and transit all within walking distance.

**NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act:** Federal law requiring agencies to document and consider the environmental implications of their actions.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>):** Gases consisting of one molecule of nitrogen and varying numbers of oxygen molecules. Nitrogen oxides are produced, for

example, by the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles and electric power plants. In the atmosphere, nitrogen oxides can contribute to formation of photochemical smog, impair visibility, and have health consequences; they are considered pollutants.

**Nonattainment:** The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality.

**NRP:** NASA Research Park.

**OARF:** Outdoor Aerodynamic Research Facility.

**Open Space:** Land and water areas retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state.

**Ozone:** A colorless gas with a pungent odor, having the molecular form of O<sub>3</sub>, found in two layers of the atmosphere, the stratosphere (about 90 percent of the total atmospheric loading) and the troposphere (about 10 percent). Ozone is a form of oxygen found naturally in the stratosphere that provides a protective layer shielding the Earth from ultraviolet radiation's harmful health effects on humans and the environment. In the troposphere, ozone is a chemical oxidant and major component of photochemical smog. Ozone can seriously affect the human respiratory system.

**Programmatic Agreement (PA):** A framework for ensuring site artifacts are identified and assessed for interpretive or educational value. It is a document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the potential adverse effects of a Federal agency program, complex undertaking or other situations in accordance with Sec. 800.14(b).

**Particulate Matter (PM):** Solid particles or liquid droplets suspended or carried in the air (e.g., soot, dust, fumes, mist).



**Pollutant:** Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

**Remediation:** The action or measures taken, or to be taken, to lessen, clean-up, remove, or mitigate the existence of hazardous materials existing on the property to such standards, specifications, or requirements as may be established or required by federal, state, or county statute, rule, or regulation.

**ROD:** Record of Decision. The signed document that adopts the preferred alternative described in the EIS, and commits NASA and its partners to implementation of the mitigation measures.

**Section 106:** Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and seek comments on their actions from an independent reviewing agency.

**Sphere of Influence:** A planning tool used by cities to identify the potential future municipal boundary. In most cases, the sphere includes the area just beyond a city's boundary and includes territory and neighborhoods surrounding the city. A sphere allows cities to plan in cooperation with other agencies for public services such as police, fire, parks, roads, and flood control. LAFCOs designate Spheres of Influence based on the identification of the probable ultimate boundaries of each city.

**State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** the official appointed or designated pursuant to section 101(b)(1) of the NHPA to administer the State historic preservation program or a representative designated to act for the State historic preservation officer.

**Sustainability:** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.

**Traffic Impact:** An increase in congestion, worsening of level of service, or reduction in safety or efficiency.

**Traffic Impact Analysis:** An analysis of the effect of traffic generated by a development on the capacity, operations, and safety of the public street and highway system.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** The implementation of programs, plans or policies designed to encourage changes in individual travel behavior. TDM can include alternatives to the single occupant vehicle such as carpools, vanpools, bicycles, transit, reduction or elimination of the number of vehicle trips, or shifts in the time of vehicle commutes to other than the peak period.

**Tree Preservation:** (1) Retaining an existing tree on site. (2) An orientation to provide for maximum tree coverage on site by retaining existing trees, especially those of high value, rather than by replanting, or a combination.

**Tree Protection:** Measures taken, such as, but not limited to, temporary fencing and the use of tree wells, to protect existing trees from damage or loss during and after project construction.

**Trip Generation:** The dynamics that account for people making trips in automobiles or by means of public transportation. Trip generation is the basis for estimating the level of use for a transportation system and the impact of additional development or transportation facilities on an existing, local transportation system.

**USFWS:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

**VTa:** Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority.

**Wetlands:** Habitats where the influence of surface or groundwater has resulted in development of plant or animal communities adapted to aquatic or intermittently wet conditions. Wetlands include tidal flats, shallow subtidal areas, swamps, marshes, wet meadows, bogs, and similar areas.

NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER  
NASA AMES DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
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**Zoning:** The division of a city into districts and the application of different regulations in each district.

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